

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of forming a platinum aluminide diffusion barrier on a titanium alloy substrate, the method comprising the steps of:
 - a) applying to the metallic substrate a coating comprising particulate platinum and particulate aluminium in an organic carrier;
 - b) performing a reaction treatment on the thus applied platinum and aluminium which comprises subjecting the platinum particles and the aluminium particles to a temperature in the range of about 200°C to about 600°C for a time sufficient for the reaction between the platinum and the aluminium to form a diffusion barrier on the substrate.
2. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the reaction treatment takes place in an inert atmosphere.
3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the coating is applied in more than one step, whereby the coating is built up on the substrate.
4. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the platinum particles and the aluminium particles are applied as the particles entrained in the organic carrier, as a single composition or sequentially as separate compositions.
5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the organic carrier comprises relatively volatile components and relatively non-volatile components, whereby the organic carrier forms a dry residue on the substrate after application, anchoring the platinum particles and the aluminium particles for the reaction treatment to form the diffusion barrier.
6. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the aluminium particles have an average effective diameter in the range of about 2 to about 10µm.

7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the platinum particles have an average effective diameter in the range of about 2 to about 10 μ m.

8-14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the platinum aluminide diffusion barrier has a substantially uniform thickness over the major part of its area.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the platinum aluminide diffusion barrier has a thickness in the range of about 1 to 10 μ m.

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the diffusion barrier is continuous over an area of at least 200 cm².

18. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the substrate comprises an aerospace component or a portion thereof.